

June 23, 2014

Judicial Nomination Commission  
% Lois Menzies  
Office of Court Administrator  
P.O. Box 203005  
Helena, MT 59620-3005

Commissioners:

I'm writing to recommend Dean Blackaby for the office of Workers' Compensation Court Judge.

As a Workers' Compensation Mediator for 35 years, I have worked with Dean for years in his capacities as a State Fund claims examiner, injured workers' counsel, and, more recently, as a State Fund legal counsel. In all of his roles, Dean presented his positions thoughtfully and eloquently, providing obviously well substantiated positions for his clients.

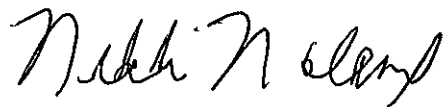
Dean has vast knowledge and experience in the Workers' Compensation law. He knows how it feels from both sides. I have witnessed his passionate advocacy for Injured workers and his well-reasoned arguments as an insurer's counsel. He definitely does his homework.

Dean is also an amazing writer. He's the kind of writer where the reader is thinking "why didn't I put it that way?" I have no doubt his decisions would be fair to all parties.

He has a very calm demeanor, which is always a plus in adversarial situations. Actually, Dean is just an all-around nice guy.

I understand you have some other very good candidates, but I urge you to consider Dean, as the Workers' Compensation Court needs someone with his particular set of skills.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nikki Noland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nikki" and last name "Noland" clearly distinguishable.

Nikki Noland  
406-442-3348